

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01
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R 121327Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SO, ETSOPN

SUBJECT: STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, AUGUST 10

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF DAILY NEWS BRIEFING QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS FROM AUGUST 10 DEALING WITH ETHIOPIAN/SOMALIAN
DISPUTE:
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QUOTE: QUESTION: THERE IS A REPORT THAT FOREIGN TROOPS,
NON-AFRICAN TROOPS, HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ETHIOPIA-
SOMALIA WAR. IS THERE ANY CONFIRMATION OF THAT, AND DO YOU
HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT CUBAN FORCES MIGHT NOW BE IN?

ANSWER: THE LATEST I HAVE IS THAT WE ARE AWARE THAT THE

SOVIETS HAVE BEEN MOVING WEAPONS INTO ETHIOPIA SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

AS FAR AS CUBANS GO, I THINK WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, THAT THERE ARE -- WE BELIEVE THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY FIFTY CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN ETHIOPIA. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY LATER INFORMATION TO UPDATE THAT.

QUESTION: HOW MANY? FIFTY?

ANSWER: FIFTY.

QUESTION: THAT IS AN OLD FIGURE; ISN'T IT?

ANSWER: THAT IS A FIGURE WE HAVE USED BEFORE, RIGHT.

QUESTION: THE REPORT WHICH CAME FROM KENYA TODAY, I BELIEVE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SOMALIAN AMBASSADOR, SAID BETWEEN 5,000 AND 9,000 FOREIGN SOLDIERS WERE HEADED FOR ETHIOPIA.

ANSWER: I SAW THAT, YES, BUT I CAN'T ENLIGHTEN YOU ON IT BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD IN THAT CONNECTION, WHILE WE ARE ON THAT SUBJECT, THAT WE CONTINUE STRONGLY TO SUPPORT THE MEDIATION EFFORT OF THE OAU IN THE OGADEN DISPUTE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ETHIOPIA AND HOPE THE PARTIES CONCERNED WILL RESPOND TO THE OAU APPEAL, THAT THE FIGHTING WILL END PROMPTLY, AND THAT AN ENDURING SOLUTION TO THE DISPUTE CAN BE WORKED OUT PEACEFULLY.

QUESTION: THERE IS NO CHANGE IN OUR POSITION THAT WE WISH THAT THE CUBAN TROOPS WOULD LEAVE AFRICA; IS THAT CORRECT?

ANSWER: I THINK WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES THAT WE THINK AFRICAN PROBLEMS, QUESTIONS, SHOULD BE SETTLED BY THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES.

QUESTION: IN OTHER WORDS, WE DO BELIEVE THAT THE CUBAN TROOPS SHOULD GO HOME AND GET OUT OF AFRICA; IS THAT CORRECT?

ANSWER: YES.

QUESTION: DO WE FEEL THAT IF THESE CUBAN EXILES HAD LAUNCHED A GUERRILLA RAID ON CUBA WITHOUT OUR INTERFERENCE THAT IT MIGHT HAVE STIMULATED THE REMOVAL OF TROOPS FROM AFRICA?

ANSWER: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER -- DO WE BELIEVE THAT IF
TERRORISTS HAD STAGED A RAID ON CUBA?

QUESTION: I DIDN'T SAY "TERRORISTS". I DID NOT USE THE
WORD "TERRORIST" AT ALL. I SAID "GUERRILLAS".

ANSWER: WHY DON'T YOU GO THROUGH YOUR QUESTION AGAIN?

QUESTION: BEG PARDON?

ANSWER: GO THROUGH YOUR QUESTION AGAIN.

QUESTION: SURE. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE SAID THAT THE
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STATE DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT THE CUBAN TROOPS SHOULD GET
OUT OF AFRICA, AND MY QUESTION WAS: IF THESE CUBAN EXILE
GUERRILLAS, NOT TERRORISTS, GUERRILLAS, HAD STAGED A
RAID ON CUBA, DO YOU THINK, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT THINK
THAT MIGHT HAVE MOTIVATED MR. CASTRO TO BRING HIS TROOPS
OUT OF AFRICA AND BACK TO CUBA?

ANSWER: I DON'T KNOW THAT ANYBODY HAS THOUGHTS ALONG
THOSE LINES. I DON'T KNOW WHAT ANYBODY'S THOUGHTS WOULD
BE ON THAT, IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION.

QUESTION: TWO QUESTIONS. FIRST OF ALL, ON ETHIOPIA THERE
WAS A REPORT ABOUT ISRAELI PLANES. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING
ON THAT?

ANSWER: ABOUT AN ISRAELI --

QUESTION: ABOUT ISRAELI PLANES THAT ARE BEING USED IN
SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA.

ANSWER: I HAVE NOT SEEN THAT REPORT AND DON'T HAVE ANY-
THING ON IT.

QUESTION: BACK ON ETHIOPIA, ARE YOU PREPARED TO REPEAT
THE LINE ABOUT THE US DESIRE TO SEE ETHIOPIA'S INDEPENDENCE
AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY PRESERVED?

ANSWER: WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE OAU PRINCIPLE
OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN STATES, OF MEMBER
STATES.

THAT IS SOMETHING I COULD HAVE SAID YESTERDAY BUT CHOSE
NOT TO AT THAT POINT. UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SOPN, PBOR, SO, US, ET
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